

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 13624 271554Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8467
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, SP
SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO ARREST OF SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER

REF: A) 75 ATHENS 9158 B) 75 ATHENS 9707

1. THE DETENTION OF SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER SANTIAGO CARRILLO HAS CREATED A CLAMOR OF PROTEST FROM VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPINGS IN GREECE. THE LOUDEST AND MOST PERSISTENT OUTCRY HAS COME FROM THE DISSIDENT COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR (KKE-INTERIOR) WHICH IN THE PAST HAS ENJOYED A RELATIVELY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS SPANISH COUNTERPART (REFTELS). DEMANDING CARRILLO'S IMMEDIATE RELEASE, THE KKE-INTERIOR PRAISED CARRILLO, CALLED FOR GOG SUPPORT IN SEEKING HIS FREEDOM AND ADVOCATED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN SPANISH POLITICS. OTHERS, INCLUDING THE RIVAL MOSCOW-ORIENTED KKE-EXTERIOR AND THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA), ALSO JOINED IN DECRYING CARRILLO'S ARREST AND SEEKING INTERVENTION BY THE GOG ON BEHALF OF CARRILLO. OPPORTUNISTIC AND RABID ANTI-AMERICAN PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU ALONE ALLEGED THE ARREST OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST CHIEFTAIN WAS WITHIN THE
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FRAMEWORK OF A POLICY GUIDED BY THE U.S. TO IMPOSE
UPON SPAIN THE FACADE OF DEMOCRACY.

2. THE PRESS FEATURED THE STORY PROMINENTLY UNTIL
IT STOPPED PUBLISHING DECEMBER 25 FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
A HIATUS WHICH WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF

DECEMBER 28. THE REST OF THE MEDIA INITIALLY
REPORTED THE DETENTION FACTUALLY BUT HAS SINCE
DROPPED COVERAGE. LOCAL ACTIVITY SUPPORTING
CARRILLO, SUCH AS A MARCH BY A COMMUNIST YOUTH
ORGANIZATION TO THE SPANISH EMBASSY AND A RALLY AT
A LOCAL MOVIE THEATER, HAVE NOT AROUSED MUCH
RESPONSE AMONG ATHENIANS DURING THE HOLIDAY
SEASON.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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